

Flathead County Road and Bridge Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Meeting
May 14, 2009 - 7:00 pm
Solid Waste District Board Room- County Landfill

1. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Karl Schrade, Mike Schlegel - Vice Chairman, Dave Hilde

Committee Members Absent: Charles Lapp-Chairman, Tom Sands

Staff Present: Public Works Director Dave Prunty, Administrative Assistant Mike Pence, Recording Secretaries Patti Vernarsky & Karen Rogers

Public Present: Tom Gorton, Caroline Crawford, Malinda Crawford

2. Introductory Remarks

No introductory remarks.

3. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes-Action Required

Karl Schrade moves to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2009 meeting, Dave Hilde seconds the motion. All in favor; motion passed, minutes approved.

4. Action Agenda – **No Items Requiring Action**

5. Directors Report

a. Dust Cost Share Bids

Dave Prunty gave a brief summary of the dust control cost share program and that six bids were received. He stated that some of the bidders chose to bid on both the mag chloride and the asphalt emulsion, while some of the bidders only chose to bid on one product. He stated that Ureco was the low bidder at .97 per lineal foot for the mag chloride whereas Schellinger Construction was the low bidder at 1.90 per lineal foot on the black oil. The Commissioners awarded the bids to the two lowest bidders and contracts will be sent out with the contractors having ten days to reply. He stated that hopefully the contractors will be able to apply their product starting around June 15th. He commented that Schellinger can shoot approximately eight miles of black oil in a week. He stated to the committee that letters have been prepared to go out to the project coordinators, and as soon as the bids are awarded, these letters will go out notifying the landowners that they have until June 4th to submit their portion of the funds.

Dave Prunty stated that one problem that may arise is that the price of black oil is \$1500 more than what was paid last year. He felt that some people may not be willing to participate if the price is too expensive.

Dave continued that the county has sent out a blade for the normal spring grading. Karl Schrade asked if there had been a second advertising for the bid, and Dave Prunty replied yes. Karl then asked if the participants would have to pay for the grading and watering. Dave replied yes. Karl felt the citizens were confused about the pre grading of the road. Dave replied that the contractor is responsible for the road as far as just grading for their product to penetrate. The county will take care of the washboards and potholes, even if there have been dust abatement applied.

Dave Hilde asked what was the price of the black oil. Mike Schlegel replied the price came in at \$615, which is up approximately \$115 from last year. Dave Hilde asked what was the price for mag chloride. Mike Schlegel replied approximately \$113 per ton with the application rate at 1/2 gallon per square yard; where as the black oil is at the discretion of the manufacturer. Dave Prunty stated Ryan from Peccia put a specification of 1/2 gallon per square yard for the black oil in the bid packet.

Mike Schlegel asked if Ryan evaluated all the roads. Dave Prunty replied Ryan did some of them but could not get to all of them. He continued that to be able to get a real test a sample needs to be taken from each road and sent to the lab. He stated the county is moving forward with what the citizens requested.

Dave Hilde asked if the \$100,000 is what will be spent. Dave Prunty replied that \$65,000 is approximately what the county's portion of the program is right now. Dave Hilde asked what is going to be done with the remainder of the money. Dave Prunty replied that the commissioners commented that if a road fails, that money could be used to go back and reapply the dust abatement. He continued that if everything works fine the \$40,000 left will stay in the budget for the next year. He was hopeful the dust control cost share program will grow next year.

Dave Hilde asked since the black oil is high would the county consider doing the grading. Mike Pence replied that the county is not doing the grading for the mag chloride. Dave Hilde commented that the county took care of the grading in the past. Dave Prunty commented the county is spending the operational money for the people that have 200 feet sections to do. He explained the county is using three graders to go all over the county for these little sections of roadways. He felt it is inefficient for the county to do such small portions. Karl Schrade asked if the county has an average cost for the grading of these sections. Dave Prunty replied the county could provide an average cost. Mike Schlegel asked how many miles of grading are done for these dust abatement sections. Dave Prunty replied approximately 28 miles in 2008, but there was 38 miles in 2007.

b. Continuation of Current Developments Maintained

Dave Prunty continued the discussion from last month's meeting regarding developments maintained by the county. He explained the spreadsheet included in the packet and the intensive effort to put the information together. He explained that every road listed is maintained by the county and going from left to right explained the different columns; right-of-way width, the type of construction (paved, gravel, natural), the road name, the year the road was created through the plat room, the development name, the general area the road is located, the section/township/range, and any notes.

Dave Prunty stated the staff went through the plat books, the GIS maps and spoke with other employees about roads the county maintains. He stated some of the roads are really only driveways. He pointed out on the spreadsheet in green the ten year period the subdivisions developed in that time frame. He pointed out that on the note section some of these roads says the county maintains up to a certain point then homeowners associations or landowners take over. He stated some lead to forest service roads and private roads. He stated the last page of the spreadsheet shows county roads listed as belonging to the city by GIS system. He pointed out Deer Street and Trout Ave are in Martin City but the GIS Department has these roads listed as City of Kalispell. Dave pointed out a couple roads that the road department was directed in 2005 by the County Commissioners to maintain. He stated the commissioners have the right to say what roads will be maintained and which roads won't.

Dave Prunty wanted to point out to the committee Sunrise Terrace Subdivision that was done in 1980/81, and on the survey the roads were intended to be private which was dated 2-22-1980, three days later on 2-23-80 the roads were deeded to Flathead County.

Dave Prunty stated one of the goals talking with the employees is the struggle going down 2 tracks that are county right-of-way that are only 12 feet wide, there isn't any place to push the snow. He stated he viewed such a road in Kila last winter riding with the truck drivers, there was no place to turn around so the employees end up having to back out. He felt these are the roads that the county should not be maintaining anymore. Mike Pence stated the Commissioners want a list generated of such roads. Mike Schlegel asked about the legalities of not maintaining these roads. Dave Prunty replied under M.C.A. the Commissioners have the right to decide which roads will be maintained.

Mike Pence commented on Pleasant Hills Subdivision is doing an RSID to rebuild the road even though the roads are deeded over to the county. He stated the home owners association wanted the county to chip seal their roads, the commissioners told the home owners no, which they were not happy about. Karl Schrade asked if there are other Counties that have run into this situation. Dave Prunty replied that information is unknown.

Mike Schlegel asked about county roads that are listed as city. Patti Vernarsky replied the road still belongs to the county, but the properties are surrounded by city limits.

Dave Prunty commented on all the unincorporated cities that the county maintains. He stated the streets established pre 1983 and 1973 in Hungry Horse and Martin City. The county maintains all of Bigfork, Somers, Lakeside, and Evergreen. He stated the county does all the little towns, and he felt the county will not get a homeowner association out of a town with their own zip code. Karl Schrade asked if Hungry Horse or Martin City would have the ability to float a bond for maintenance. Mike Pence replied that is what Lewis and Clark County does on roads where the homeowners pay taxes.

Dave Prunty stated Bigfork has a lot of subdivisions and was established in the 1900's, but the biggest development is Evergreen. He wondered about telling everyone in Evergreen they would have to take care of their own roads or would want to get annexed into the city. He felt there should be some way of establishing a maintenance program for the arterials and collectors. He felt the county could do a good job, but currently the county is spread out all over. He stated if the county could funnel money into arterials or collectors such as Mennonite Church Road, the county could do a better job, but all the little side streets take away from the main roads. He stated when the new Highway 2 was built in Martin City, the old Highway 2 was given to the county to maintain. He stated the old Highway 93 in Somers and Lakeside is the same way.

Dave Prunty felt the committee and county needs to look at activity, ADT, classifications, etc to determine what roads are to be maintained. Dave Hilde stated having a five year period to get things together and give people time to come up with a method for the maintenance of their roads.

Dave Prunty commented that plowing into cul-de-sacs and finding places to place the snow, and turn around a dump truck is usually the biggest problem. Mike Schlegel asked how not maintaining these roads would that work with law enforcement. He also asked if the county can do away with subdivisions and deed the roads back to the homeowners. Dave Prunty replied that most of the roads have an easement, there are some deeded roads, but M.C.A. states that counties cannot have deeded roads.

Dave Hilde stated he hadn't been aware that the county was doing everything for all of the little towns, providing all the services. Mike Pence stated there are 100's of roads like Resthaven. Dave Hilde stated if the county had a good road system on the collector roads, the county would be far better off. Mike Pence asked if everyone else would have to pay something extra and the people that live on the collector roads would they have to pay any extra.

Mike Pence stated extra funds could be obtained by having maintenance districts or a county wide maintenance district where everyone pays an extra assessment.

c. Discussion of Road Tour

Dave Prunty stated his hope was to have the June 11 meeting done during the day on the bus reviewing roads maintained by the county. He stated it will be the last chance to get out. He stated the county will get a bus from Eagle Transit and expand the tour from last

year. He wanted to show the committee what the road department has been doing and where crush has been placed. Mike Schlegel asked about the commissioners going on the tour. Mike Pence stated that maybe Dale and Jim would be able to attend.

6. Comments from Committee Members
7. Comments from the Public (15 Minutes Maximum)

Tom Gorton, 578 Creston Road. He was listening to what the committee is talking about and felt the committee is doing well. He thought maybe a county attorney could come in and sit through these meeting to help with the legalities about not maintaining these developments. He asked if mag chloride with high traffic count on four miles will work. Mike Schlegel replied yes, but he did not know for how long it would it last. Tom stated he liked what the committee was talking about and it sounds productive with the recommendation to the commissioners. He asked if the commissioners have followed up on the recommendations. Mike Pence stated the commissioners have adopted all of the things the committee has recommended. Tom stated that Mennonite Church is a through road and once the bridge is finished there will be a huge amount of traffic. He felt the county needs to fix the roads that everyone uses. He liked the idea of a subdivision maintaining their own roads, especially if there is already a homeowners association established. He felt this would save the county money.

Caroline Crawford, Mennonite Church. She asked if there was a difference between an RSID and a rural improvement district. Mike Pence stated he couldn't answer that without having the information. Caroline stated she had spoke with Jonathon Smith about the difference. She feels an RSID is unfair and inequitable. She continued that 100 acres could get developed and the homeowners would have to pay the tax for 15 to 20 years whereas the rest of the people that use the road would not have to pay anything. She asked about revising the road standards because the developers could not afford the standards set in place now. Dave Prunty replied that a subcommittee has already had three meetings and are reviewing current specifications to come up with new specifications that would be better for everyone. He stated that not every road needs to be built the same and the new specifications would lean more towards the use of engineers design.

8. Adjournment

Karl Schrade made the motion to adjourn, Dave Hilde seconded, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.